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Contemporary treasure hunt
See how to have a Highlands East adventure on page 3.

Sharing light in darkness
Read about the importance of connection in this week's editorial on page 6.

Shindig returns!
Get excited about this year's in-person show on page 12.

Santa Claus is coming to town this Friday! The Haliburton Village Santa Claus Parade starts at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 25. /FILE photo

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Writing on the Senior Side

Carving new skating memories

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

As we settle into senior-hood, we start to realize that even the little things we used to do with ease now mean stepping out of our comfort zone.

I am going skating. I went once last year. That was the first time I had been skating in, I don't know exactly, maybe 45 years. Why did I stop? As a child, as a teen, and even as a young woman, I loved skating.

So special are my memories of skating with the first new figure skates that Santa brought me. This memory stands out as one of the best; no more old skate exchange or hand me down worn out skates for me!

Those new Christmas skates were made all the more perfect with a new skating skirt: black velvet with gold crisscross threads and a white fur trim around the bottom. No money for figure skating lessons or skating clubs in my childhood, but with local ponds and outdoor artificial rinks, skating was accessible for every Canadian kid.

The Christmas of my first new skates and my abounding enthusiasm led my brother, Jim, to offer to take me to the gully that very morning. The gully was a large hill (the best toboggan hill), at the top of our street. Behind the hill, in the valley, there was a pond; a frozen shallow pond with bits of grass surfacing here and there.

I had been to the gully many times; in my winter boots, sliding on the ice, playing goalie for my bother and his friends. I still remember Jim helping me with my skates. At six years old and with a mom who worked and a dad who was seldom available, my brother was my hero, and I was his tagalong. Merry Christmas to me!

Then there were the years at outdoor rinks; me and my skates and my wonderful skirt. I taught myself twirls and jumps (little jumps) and that figure skating move where you glide with one leg out straight behind you. Skating was every Wednesday and Friday night and most Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Skating was the Parklawn outdoor artificial rink. Skating was snow falling and music playing. Skating was a boy holding my hand. Skating was a wonderful part of my life. Skating was me.

So, it will come as no surprise to you that, on one of our first dates, Peter and I went skating. I think he was surprised at how well I could skate. I still surprise him sometimes. And that is no small accomplishment when you have been married for 54 years!

So why did I stop skating? Maybe it was having those amazing four kids in six years that took skating to the other side; to the stands, as I took them to the lessons I never had and watched all those wonderful hockey games. Later, my reasons changed: busy career, busy family and then in my 40s came the greatest reason of all: arthritis.

Last year, with two knee replacements behind me and before my hips get any worse, it was not only the perfect time, but also the perfect place to just do it. We rented the arena for the first Stelter Family Skate. Not that the kids hadn't skated or played hockey when we lived on the lake, but this was going to be different. I was going to skate.

What can be safer than stepping out of your comfort zone in the company of family? Of course, there may be some teasing, but there will also be enthusiastic encouragement and, even more importantly, no one will knock me down. Right?

First, I need skates. Peter buys me a pair of figure skates. No, I can't wear those. Flimsy! Has he forgotten my arthritic toes? Has he forgotten my fear? No, hockey skates with support will be best. They do sell women's hockey skates. Back to the store we go; bought men's skates. Sharpened. I guess that means there is no turning back. I really want to do this. I also want it over; to have had lots of fun and, mostly, I want to not fall or break any bones. Is this too much to ask? It's a risk. Heck, life is a risk. I'm in my 70s. Time is a gift, and that gift may be running out. Let's do this.

Do you remember when you were old enough to tighten your own skates? You are a big girl or boy when you can do this, and then, you are too big or rather too old. You can hardly reach the skates, never mind tightened them. Oh, that didn't happen to you? Okay, I am old and it happened to me. I can't do up my skates. I wonder if I can even walk in them.

It's so much fun to see the looks on my grandchildren's faces as we are all together in the dressing room. They can tighten their own skates. Do they seem a little worried or just curious? Yes, they have skated with Grandpa, but with Grandma? You know, Grandma doesn't do much beside swimming; swimming slowly at that. She does organize things. She has been known to organize everyone!

They do seem a little worried. Nothing to worry about. I put on my happy face and walk out to the rink; walking that could more accurately be described as the senior shuffle. Who's bringing my chair? I need to hold onto something! I have to step down onto the ice. "Peter, hold my hand." Even with no skates and my titanium knees, I have to hold on to railings to go down a step. "Oh, just keep going. It will be fine."

Skating is a new trick. I know you are thinking, and I was hopeful, that it's like riding a bicycle. It will all come back. No, not really. This is a new trick and yes, you can teach an old girl new tricks, but it is not easy.

So, I hobble along, step by step on my skates, holding onto my chair "for dear life" and staying ever so close to the boards. I am not actually skating at this point, but I have learned to walk in skates. The kids are whizzing by and smiling and cheering me on. "Way to go, Grandma!"

I think that I look like a really big three year old with my skate buddy, but I guess my white hair gives me away. It is fun, and with a few rests to take pictures of my figure skaters and hockey players, I am getting a little more confident and try to speed up with each go-round.

I do not skate without my chair, and Peter is often beside or behind me just in case. Yes, I am skating. The hour is over, and I am in one piece. I am feeling proud. I am also feeling extremely relieved. I stepped out of my comfort zone. I skated. It's done and now … well now, I have to do it again at the 2022 Stelter Family Skate. Oh no! Oh yes! I am going skating and maybe, just maybe, I will even let go of the chair!

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County Life

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Geocaching memories are waiting to be made

EMILY STONEHOUSE

County Life Staff

Just because there is a dash of snow on the ground doesn't mean adventures are winding down. Experiential tourism company Yours Outdoors is preparing for a busy "shoulder" season. The company, which is based out of Haliburton Forest, and managed by Barrie Martin, adventure connoisseur and local advocate for all things Haliburton County, has a whole roster of experiences to keep people active, busy, and entertained through the early days of winter.

Many of these adventures are based out of Highlands East. "[Highlands East] is rich with experiences and exceptional experience leaders and providers," said Martin. "It is great to work with and support Artech Studio, Greenmantle Farm, Deep Roots Adventure, Nez Glass, South Algonquin Trails, AM/PM Outdoor Gourmet, and the Municipality."

One of the fan favourites for this in-between season is geocaching. Yours Outdoors offers a program called Introduction to Geocaching, which is a three-hour guided program based in various locations around Highlands East; specifically the communities of Tory Hill, Wilberforce, Gooderham, Harcourt, Cardiff, Highland Grove, and Irondale. These seven hamlets make up the geocaching capital of Canada.

"Kudos to the community members and Municipality who have created a world class brand, unique geocaches and geotour," said Martin. "This community is full of initiative, innovation, and inspiration!"

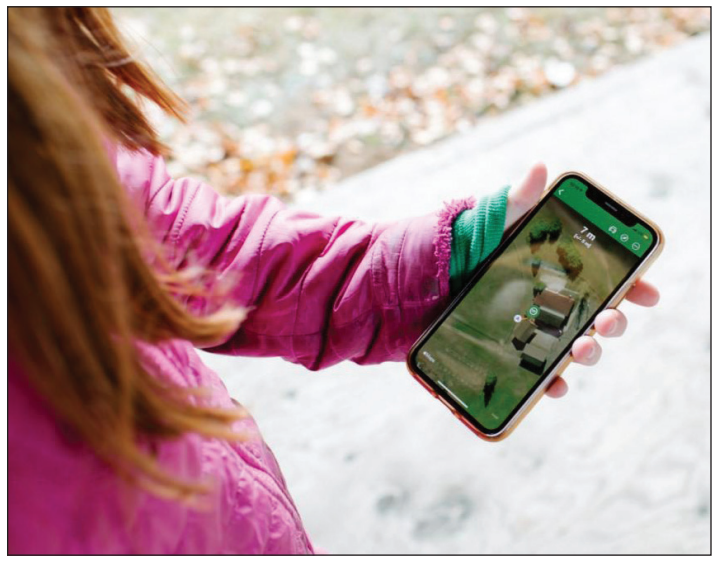
This tour is rated the number one GeoTour in Canada and the fourth in the world. It boasts 150 caches across Highlands East for you to discover with your GPS.

For those new to geocaching, the concept is that of a modern treasure hunt. Participants are equipped with all the necessary gear, which can be provided with Yours Outdoors, and the goal is to discover caches using GPS coordinates across the region. The caches may be super large, extra tiny, whimsical, wacky, educational, or traditional.

One of the best parts about this experience is the fact that it runs year-round. Caches can be discovered in rain, shine, snow, and fog.

"No such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!" is a motto Yours Outdoors applies to many of their adventures.

If you are seeking an adventurous date night, a fun family day, or a holiday gift that promises to make many memories, then perhaps geocaching is the perfect fit. For more information and a list of all upcoming geocaching dates, head over to www.yoursoutdoors.ca or call 705-457-0459 to book your spot.



Explore an "Introduction to Geocaching," offered every season through Yours Outdoors. In this modern-age treasure hunt, you can explore the geocaching capital of Canada with an engaging guide, and all equipment provided. Go to www.yoursoutdoors.ca for all upcoming sessions. / Submitted by Yours Outdoors

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Feathering one's nest

LAURIE JONES
Special to *County Life*

Since I happen to be "in the art biz," I sometimes get asked to help a friend, or friend of a friend, choose a piece of artwork for their newly renovated home.

Most of the time, after giving them a pep talk about how "you should choose what *you* like and what suits your budget," I do oblige, but never without reservations. After all, art is so subjective, and who am I to tell them what should hang on their walls? What if they don't like what I like, I misread their taste, or, even worse, impose my own?

Choosing a piece of art to live with is not easy. Investing your paycheck on something with no apparent function just because it pleases you makes it even harder. We all have the Protestant work ethic of frugality and delayed gratification to thank for that little guilt trip.

Maybe that's why people turn to mass produced poster art, canvas prints and inspirational quotes when decorating. There's safety in numbers; you can't really go wrong if thousands of other people like it too. Still, sooner or later, tastes develop, the budget grows and you feel the urge to feather your nest with something a little more "you-nique." It's usually then that original art comes a-knocking.

I was recently at my son's in-law's (the other grandparents) freshly renovated home in midtown Toronto. Comfortably retired from the banking industry, both minimalists, they had stuck to a neutral palette, trending toward cool greys and white to carve out a calm retreat from the surrounding Yonge/Eglinton Metrolinks transit debacle. Some, what looked to be expensive, original art had entered the picture since my previous visit. Above the classic tuxedo sofa was a four by five foot square abstract canvas consisting largely of blue swashes, drips and expansive brushmarks applied with restrained abandon. A focal highpoint!

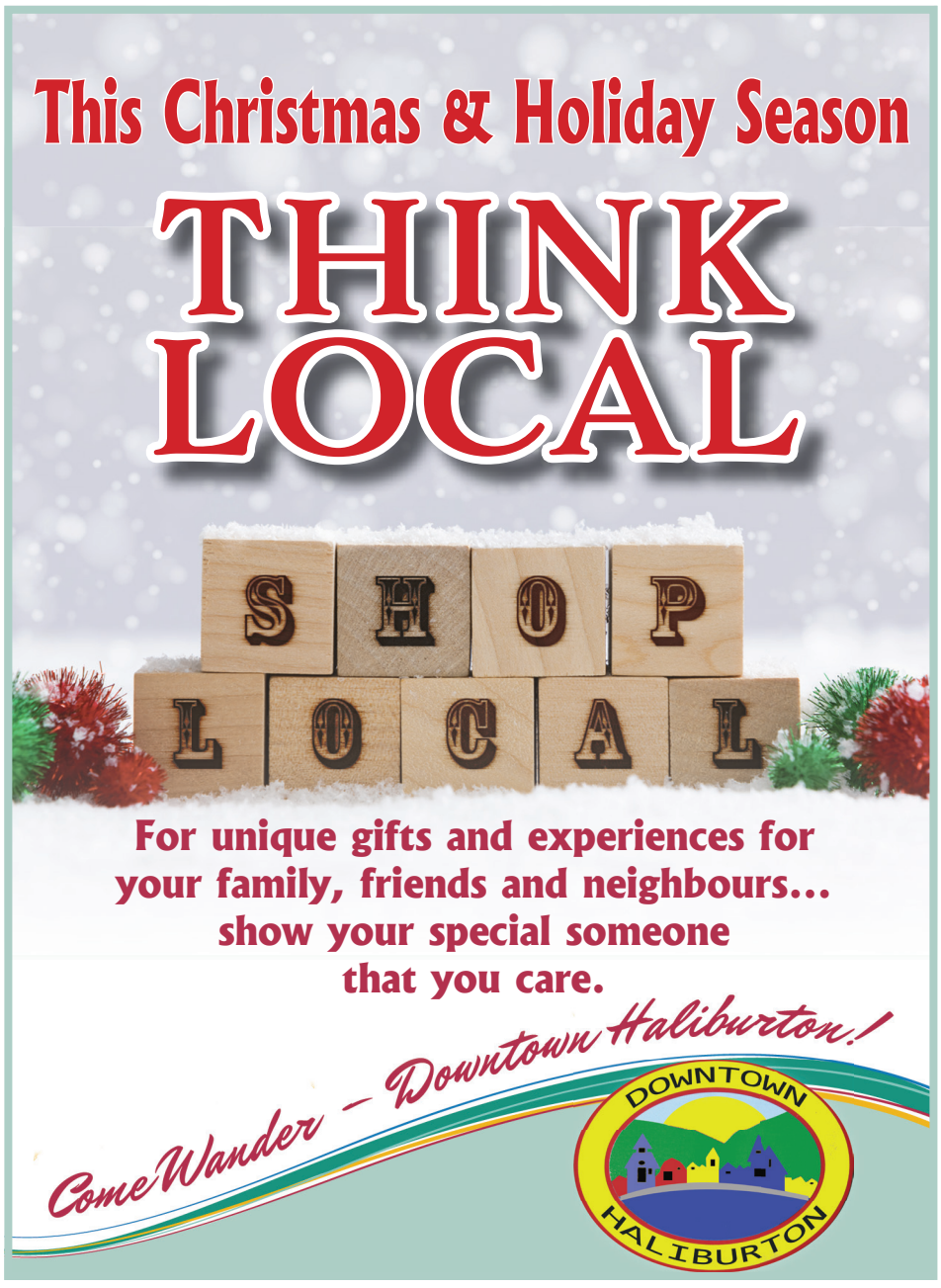
In the adjoining dining room, an equally large, but quieter, oil that reminded me of an overgrown garden hung as backdrop to a heavy walnut slab set for six. This painting offered no competition for the dining table's powerful lines. Rather, the more my gaze returned to it, the more the artist's brushstrokes and subdued hues seemed to infuse the austere room with warmth. The overall effect was of strength tempered by beauty. l imagined many lively family feasts in its glow in years to come.

I was wowed at their excellent taste and was a tad surprised when, this week, I had a text from my midtown counterpart asking if I had any recommendations of artists she could look at for art. (Oh my gosh, I thought, had I at some point during my visit actually volunteered that she could call me anytime, and I'd steer her to some of our local artists I thought she'd enjoy?).

Oh boy!

Suffice to say, I did offer some names and websites, but only after gushing at the wonderful job she's already done in selecting art. It was then I learned she'd had a teeny bit of help from a Toronto gallery, and that they even came to install the work. Did that matter? Not really, it didn't. It looks great! Everyone is happy. And, the two of us grannies plan to get to know each other better while gallery hopping next time I am down to the city. Win-win!

Book launch buzz
Attendees mingled before Janet Trull's book launch of *Something's Burning*, a collection of fiction about betrayal and belonging in times of social upheaval, at Rails End Gallery on Saturday, Nov. 12. It was a full house for her presentation. /Submitted by Laurie Jones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Community Events

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Environment Haliburton! 21st AGM (virtual)

When: Thursday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.
Where: via zoom (please register in advance)
What: Leora Berman from the Land Between and Turtle Guardians will talk about wetlands and politics
No charge, everyone welcome .
For more info, contact Susan Hay at info@environmenthaliburton.org

Haliburton Village Santa Claus Parade

When: Friday Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Main Street Haliburton

The Highlands Opera Studio's Youth & Young Adult Opera Club

presents a screening of La Bohème by Puccini.
First two acts followed by set building with gingerbread!
When: Thursday, Dec. 1 - 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.
Where: the Haliburton Highlands Museum.
Contact: RSVP to info@highlandsoperastudio.com

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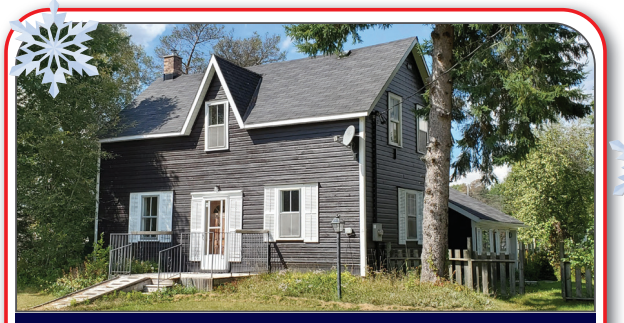

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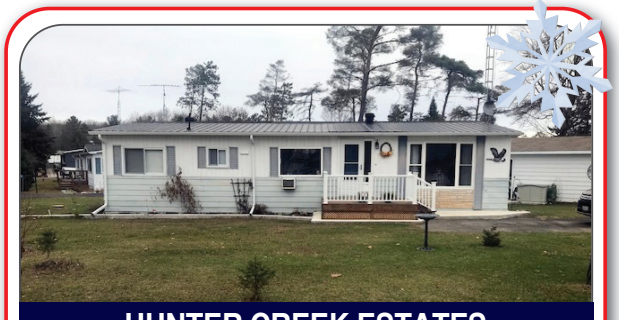

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Sharing the light

KATE BUTLER
Special to *County Life*

It's that time of year when discussions turn to the question of whether it's too early to decorate for the holidays. You may have put up all your outdoor lights on a warm autumn day, but then found yourself debating when to switch them on. Are you itching to put up a Christmas tree, but don't know if you should yet?

Over the last couple of years, due to the unusual circumstances in which we all found ourselves, many decorated early, often citing the pandemic as their reason for doing so. It was a way of brightening a dark time, both literally and figuratively, and I would also say, a way for people to connect with their community from a distance when they might not have been able to gather in person. Some might have seen it as a pandemic measure, but I think there is always a real value in sharing whatever light you have at this time of the year.

Throughout many cultures in the world, winter is a time when celebrations occur and more often than not, those celebrations seem to include light. Historically, that light might have come in the form of candles or even a roaring bonfire. During the shortest days and longest nights, light becomes a symbol of hope, a reminder that the current situation is only temporary and longer, brighter days will come again. Today, we may take it for granted that we can simply switch on the lights at home, but just imagine what life would have been like in Haliburton County a century and a half ago when most of your light would have come from oil lamps and flickering flames.

Today, we have a better understanding than ever before of the impact of the seasons on people's well-being. We know about the existence of Seasonal Affective Disorder, which impacts a significant portion of the population to varying degrees and many people report cases of the "Winter Blues." In truth, it's hard to gauge the impacts of such conditions in the past, as we can only really know as much as people living at that time chose to record. That said, there might be some lessons to help us. Today, recommendations for treating Seasonal Affective Disorder often suggest spending more time outside in the winter and avoiding that cycle of going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark. Historically, in Haliburton County, more time was spent outdoors in the winter, so perhaps that also helped residents then. Additionally, the winter was a time for socializing and community events, which helped to reduce isolation by providing human connection and simply distraction from the cold days and long dark nights.

So, this holiday season and throughout the winter, I say, spread whatever light you can. The sight of some cheery lights or decorations in a window may improve the evening of a neighbour or someone passing by in ways that you don't even know. It's also worth remembering that the light you spread can take many forms – a smile, a phone call to check in on someone or an invitation. Together, we can brighten the winter nights and look after each other.

Top 10 reasons why deep snow is helpful

NOW THAT winter is almost upon us, we will once again have to contend with deep snow, which gets a bad rap from a lot of us. But, if you just allow yourself to be a little optimistic, you'll find that there are many excellent reasons for welcoming high snow depths. Here are my top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. It hides ice patches on the sidewalk, potentially making your social media posts go viral.
2. It hides the snow shovel and other tools of the devil.
3. Really great when your parachute doesn't open.
4. Easier to duck behind a snowbank when the guy you owe money is coming.
5. Get a few packages of ketchup, stand in a neck deep snowbank and you can fulfill your lifelong dream of pretending to be a disembodied head.
6. Settles once and for all who the heaviest person in your group is.
7. If it gets really deep you'll only need snowshoes to hang your Christmas lights.
8. Shoveling gives the kids something other than video games to enjoy.
9. Justifies you "borrowing" a snow plough from the municipality.
10. You can make a snow maze on your front lawn to keep door to door salespeople confounded till spring.

Nightwriting

November in Algonquin Park
Our pop-up camper, lukewarm spark
In shadow barrens after dark
Two tired travellers finish day

One sleeps, one writes as frost descends
Dry leaves' death-rattle, withered ends
Caught up in breeze the north wind sends
To spin like dervish first, then splay

In patches whirled upon the ground
With wind diminished, hollow sound
Is halted; notions new are found
For writer's block to go away

So from a pen grow rhymes of hope
Despite the hour, words that cope
When enigmatic tugs on rope
Now ring the bell of what to say

Though peace was scarce and thoughts were slow
Tonight instead in flashlight glow
Come lyrics, and another go
At finding sun in better way

If wintertime looks mostly blue
It's verse which pulls a spirit through
The pretty portals, safe and true
To freedom as a place to stay

Deborah J Reed

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Lunch is On Us brings full bellies and smiles

Warmth, smiles and full bellies; that is what the SIRCH Bistro was filled with on Nov. 2 for the kick off of Lunch Is On Us.

A program that provides a pay-by-donation, hot and nutritious meal, Lunch Is On Us is taking place every Wednesday from 11 a.m. 2 p.m. in Haliburton Village.

Last week, visitors enjoyed tomato soup with a fresh bun and espresso chipotle chicken with roasted potatoes and corn.

"The food is great," said Jane as she was enjoying her meal. "We are frequent visitors of the Bistro. We come from Wilberforce."

Other guests commented on the quality of the food, the friendly staff and the warm and safe atmosphere the Bistro provides.

Executive Director for SIRCH Community Services, Gena Robertson said, "The goal of Lunch Is On Us is, ultimately, to help create more resilient communities for individuals and families and to improve mental well-being through connection with others. It's really for anyone."

Aside from Lunch Is On Us, the Bistro & Bakery is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for breakfast and lunch, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch Is On Us will run every week until Mar. 29, 2023. Don't get caught waiting around, lunch is only served until 2 p.m. or while food lasts. Bring your friends, your neighbours or just yourself.

The SIRCH Bistro is located at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton.

Submitted by SIRCH Community Services

Winter driving tips

With winter conditions just around the corner, the Central Region Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) wish to share some winter driving tips to help motorists navigate the roadways when the snow starts falling:

- Winter tires. Having winter tires can improve traction in frost, snow, and icy conditions, and shorten the braking distance of your vehicle
- Plan-ahead and check the weather forecast before heading out. If there are adverse weather conditions, delay your trip if possible. You can use Ontario 511 to check road conditions here: Ontario 511 (511on.ca), twitter: @511Ontario
- Properly clean the ice and snow from your windows, lights, mirrors, and roof. This will assist with visibility, as well as help avoid having ice and debris falling off your vehicle
- Drive according to the conditions. Many collisions on our roadways occur because drivers are travelling too fast for the road conditions
- Turn off the cruise control on wet, snowy, or icy pavement. It can reduce your reaction time and vehicle control
- Steer gently on curves and slippery conditions. Hard braking, quick acceleration, and sudden gear changes can cause you to skid
- Give other vehicles room. It can take vehicles longer to stop in slippery conditions, so be sure to leave adequate room between you and other vehicles
- Have an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes warm clothing, a shovel, booster cables, high energy foods, flashlight, matches and a candle
- Be prepared for the unexpected. Give yourself some extra time if possible and remember, road safety is everyone's responsibility. If you know any drivers that may be new to driving in winter conditions, share this information with them, and help give them the driving advantage this winter season. It could save a life

Submitted by Haliburton Highlands OPP

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Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot - $1000 Jackpot - last Wednesday of the month
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!

Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m.,
Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Monday to Thursday Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
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Call ahead any day for take-out:
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Karaoke every second Friday
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Tuesday: Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Schedules are subject to change without notice, so contact each Legion for updates.

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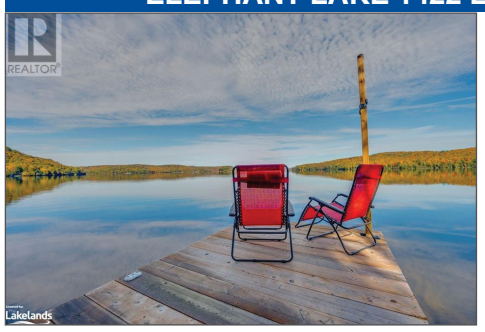

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Home

Ink clouds spilling across a milky Sky,
blotting the light of a lunar Sun,
its glow smudging the shadows of
tree bones, lengthening across the road.
I cup my face up towards the
paleness of Sun, as I clomp through the
puddles of leaves,
flooding the side of the road, grateful
for this brief reprieve as breeze, warm
as fur, grazes my cheeks,
the balm of this fleeting November
spring, as I inhale rivers of Air, deep,
so deep,
it trickles all the way down to my
feet, lightening my steps as I saunter
along the road,
savouring the changing patchwork
of Sky, the orb of Sun blinking between
pillows of clouds,
as I pause to admire an orphan leaf,
dangling from its branch, like an
earring missing its twin,
the only leaf left on this towering
tree, still clinging to its twig, fluttering
in the breeze,
the rest of the branches, ashen
and bare.
I watch the copper-coloured leaf
tremble on its twig, wondering what
makes its stem hang on,
its con-freres, long gone, crumpled in
a puddle beneath the tree, or hurled by
Wind, to a strange place,
landing in a heap with other leaves,
seized from other trees.
For a long while I stare up at this soli-
tary leaf, listening to the sound
it makes,
as its edges scrape a neighbouring
twig, like ancient parchment being
unfurled,
barely audible, but still there, like the
tone of a lone note, lingering long after
the rest have blurred into silence.
I reach up to touch the orphan leaf,
careful not to yank it from its branch,
grazing its edges, that curl into
themselves, the leaf, feeling brittle, as if
it will crumble if I stroke it too long,
thinking about the lifespan of a leaf,
how brief, compared to the longevity
of its tree,
rooted to the same patch of earth its
whole life, while humans grow restless,
roaming to remote corners, only to
return to that place where they were
born, that grounded them
and planted seeds for their future
flourishing, before they scattered like
leaves in the Wind.
I gaze at the grooves marking the
tree's trunk, the pattern resembling the
whorls on the pads of my fingers,
as they graze the burl bulging from
its bark, that maybe somebody's hands
will saw from the tree,
and from that rawness create a bowl
of such beauty, that fingers will linger
along its edges,
laced with the fragrance of its tree.
I leave the lone leaf be, to flutter in
the warm November breeze, this brief
reprieve,
'till an icy Wind slices it off its
branch, hurling it through Air to
wherever it lands,
its tree now standing all alone,
rooted to the only Home it's ever
known.

Sylvie Kalenda

The cruller and the crow

Strange things are done in
midday sun
When sky denies December
Uncanny blues on winter hues
Plus sun's peculiar ember

My winter walk heard ravens talk
In ratcheted preamble
They aimed to glean from patches
green
A lunch worth flying gamble

What's that down there? A deep-fried
square!
A single treat from Tim's!
Tossed from a car or stroller bar:
Fresh cruller, bitten rims!

Such luck, cried bird, it's down a
third!
We'll share what's left to eat!
They perched abreast near squirrel
nest
And plunged from branch to treat

They're super near when crow
makes jeer
Then swoops to steal their prize
It's rude, I'm sure, but there's no cure
Since woods hold hungry spies

Too slow, you lose, say tummy blues
Survival of the quick!
Get first to food: survival mood
Compete, or you get sick!

When I heard squawk of raven-talk
I knew they'd been outdone
A single crow, in claws, fresh dough
Cawed MINE! in show-off fun

So through azure flew sugar pure
That gloating thief claimed win
Poor raven-pair, not debonair
Now nursed a hot chagrin

As cruller flew into the blue
With crow quite chuffed and bold
Outwitted birds spat cranky words
In nevermore-ish scold

It's no-one's fault; if worth its salt
A raven tries again
Each eyed around the frosty ground
Found other lunch…Amen.

Deborah J Reed

Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2022

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

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Partner in Haliburton,
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Ridgewood Ford – 12560 Highway 35 Ford Ridgewood Ford Sales

Other locations in Minden and Haliburton:
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All pick ups will need to be made BEFORE December 12

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Minden Community Food Centre Christmas Hampers

Call in applications begin November 28 - Dec. 2 and December 5 - 9, from 10 am to 2 pm.

CALL 705-286-6400

Hamper pick up is Wednesday, December 21

If your surname begins with A-M PICK UP AT 1 pm
N-Z PICK UP AT 2 pm

MCFC is closed
Monday, Dec. 26

Open Wednesday, Dec. 28 and Monday, Jan. 2

Pick up of hampers is the "DRIVE BY" format.

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Highlands Christmas Shindig is back warming hearts and homes

JERELYN CRADEN
Special to *County Life*

The show must go on, and it did, and it will again on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Northern Lights Pavilion. Now, in its ninth year, Fuel for Warmth's signature community fundraiser – Highlands Christmas Shindig – has defied being shutdown by the pandemic for two years in a row with live-streaming of the event, raising $45,000 last year which helped to heat the homes of Haliburton residents in need. This year, with rising inflation, the need is even greater.

The brain child of past Highlander of the Year, Mike Jaycock, and his exuberant Canoe FM on-air co-host, Lorraine McNeil, (who has since passed away), brought about the Shindig's engaging hosts, Dame Beatrice (Jaycock), and Elf (McNeil), with the assistance of Sir Cedric (Jaycock's brother, Peter).

This year the baton is being passed to two new Shindig co-hosts: the ever-handy Marple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and the super organized/always on schedule, Patsy Pine, (Amy Brohm).

"Fuel for Warmth (FFW) is a great cause, and we're excited to be hosting this year," Bingham said. "We have a whole team of volunteers who have been working behind the scenes: David and Betty Mills, Sean Pennylegion, Heather Smith, Jack Brezina, Jennifer Hughey, Sue Waite, Barb Murphy, Mark Tomlinson, Tammy Rae, and Jim Love, with additional transitional support from Mike Jaycock, Joanne Barnes, and Lorne McNeil."

Shindig's great entertainment lineup

Bingham excitedly shared the list of this year's Shindig acts, "Classic rock musician and performer, Jeff Moulton and Dan O'Neill with special guest Doug Hall. A skit from the Rural Rogues featuring Kate Butler and David Zilstra. Two excerpts from T*he Nutcracker* performed by the Skyline Dance Studio, Melissa Stephens and Tom Regina. The Recycled Teenagers: Drew Allen Jodi Timgren and guests. And, the ever-popular, Gord Kidd & Friends."

Shindig's great raffle prizes

You won't want to miss out on your chance to win some great prizes donated by the following local businesses: Abbey Gardens, Wintergreen Pancake and Maple Syrup Barn, Wind in the Willows Spa, Rails End Gallery, Haliburton Highlands Brewery, HaliUkes, Miners Bay Lodge. The awesome experience of the Canopy Walk from Haliburton Forest, Folk Society Concert tickets, Highlands Summer Festival tickers, and the Wine Store.

$10 for a strip of 12 tickets, or three strips for $20.

Fuel for Warmth also passes the baton

Taking the reigns this past summer as Executive Director of FFW from its founder, Joanne Barnes – Jennifer Hughey said, "It was a great opportunity to give back to the community and to the county as a whole. The need in Haliburton County compared to other areas in Ontario is substantially greater when it comes to affordable or attainable housing as well as individuals who have to make hard choices at the end of the month when it comes to their bills and basic necessities like groceries, fuel for their vehicle and heat for their home. We are hoping to raise the same amount as last year, if not more, considering that the need is greater than it has been in the past."

As early as last September, FFW began receiving inquiries for aid. "There are a lot of new people in need, with small families and young children," Hughey said. "The Shindig is a great way to help support the community and have a great night out."

Shindig tickets

Tickets are $30 and can be purchased in person at Up River Trading Company in Minden or Haliburton, or call Betty at 705-457-1354.

Contact information for Fuel for Warmth is on their website: fuelforwarmth.com or email fuelforwarmthincorporated@gmail.com or phone 705-854-9208.

First blanket
The first snow of the year rests on bare branches and a thin layer of ice in Head Lake Park in Haliburton. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

We're Back!!
Highlands Christmas Shindig
The Highlands Christmas Shindig return with a fun night of entertainment at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 7:30 p.m.
Great family Friendly entertainment with a Christmas touch featuring ... all local performers and your genial hosts Maple Syrup and Patsy Pine all for a Heart Warming Cause.

Fuel for Warmth Inc. Because no one should go cold
Your help is needed more than ever this year
So join us for a winter wonderful night or donate and sponsor the evening.

TICKETS: $30
Tickets available at
Up River Trading Minden & Haliburton
or call 705-457-1354.

The entertainment line-up includes: The band, "Not Responsible" a Dramatic presentation by Kate Butler and Michael Clipperton; Classical music presentation by Tom Regina and Melissa Stephens; the band, "The Recycled Teenagers" folk singer· Jeff Moulton; ballet excerpt from the Nutcracker by Heritage Ballet; folk singer Jodi Timgren; and the band "Gord Kidd and Friends".

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Home Games
S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena
WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA
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Saturday, Dec 17 @ 4 p.m.
vs Toronto Patriots
Friday, Dec 30 @ 7 p.m.
vs Mississauga Chargers
For more more information please visit our website

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A beaver swims around its pond, looking a meal of branches or bark. /Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

A cow moose and her calf touch noses among the bare branches of deciduous trees. /Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

A doe listens intently to her surroundings. /Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

Resident fisher in Tammy Nash's backyard makes its evening appearance. / Photo submitted by Tammy Nash

Delicious food and great tunes

Poquito Loco owner Claudette Pitre preps a burrito for a customer at Castle Antiques' first-ever Tacos and Tunes, on Friday, Nov. 11, in downtown Haliburton. Tacos and Tunes at Castle Antiques was deemed a success Friday with the Ya Babys performing in front of a packed house while Poquito Loco served-up tacos and burritos to hungry locals. Doors at Castle Antiques opened at 5 p.m., and the Ya Babys hit the stage shortly after while a steady line of people waited to get their hands on some Mexican grub. Friday's door fee was by donation with proceeds going to local youth mental health initiatives. Taco and Tunes will happen every Friday at Castle Antiques throughout the winter. /Submitted by Adam Frisk

A family enjoys some Mexican food while the Ya Babys play some live tunes at Castle Antiques' first-ever Tacos and Tunes.

The Ya Baby's, Mark Christiano and Craig Titus perform while a couple dances.

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SUBSCRIPTION SALE
Friday, November 25th
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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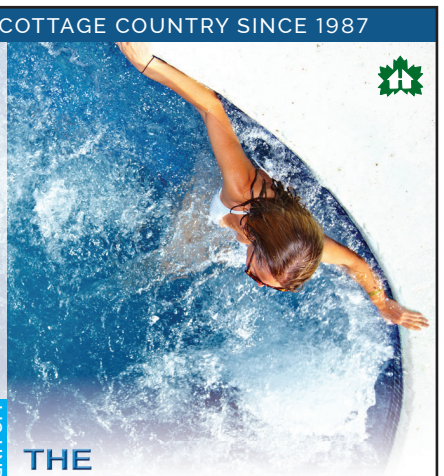

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705-935-1112

North Pigeon Lake $775,000

- 3 bedroom / 1 bathroom, 900 SqFt
- Fully Winterized, Newly Built Bunkie
- Large Updated Windows Overlooking Lake
- Breathtaking Sunrise Views

Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Haliburton Home $899,000

- 3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2100+ Sq Ft
- 2.3 Acres, 3 Season Screened Porch
- Beautiful View of Barnum lake
- New 24x40 Detached Heated Shop

Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

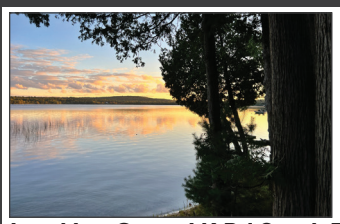
Minden Home $420,000

- 3 Bedroom Home on 48 Acres
- Many Outbuildings and Open Meadow
- 10 Minutes to Minden
- Home Needs Work, Sold "As Is"

Andy Campbell
854-0292

Acreage & Building Lot for $499,000

- 98 acres north of Carnarvon
- 3300 feet Hwy 35 frontage
- Driveway in, site cleared
- Financing may be available to qualified buyer



Gloria Carnochan* & Brean Budel*
754-1932

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- Put The Boat In, Go Fishing Or Tour 3 Lk Chain
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Mark Dennys*
457-0473

Haliburton Condominium $699,900

- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
- Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails

Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Beech Lake $819,000

- Open concept 3-season cottage with 4 bedrooms
- Oversized 1 car-garage with an updated bunkie
- Clean, hard-packed sand beach & big lake views
- Amazing afternoon sun & sunsets!

Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

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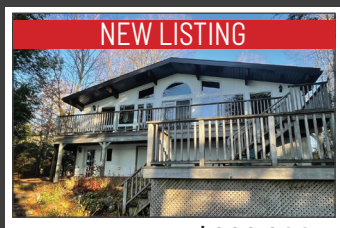
Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Irondale River $519,000

- 4-season waterfront home or cottage
- Enjoy 300+ feet of frontage w/ western exp
- Updated interior with 3 bedrooms & 1 bath
- Updated bunkie for overflow & large shed



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Miskwabi Lake $999,900

- 4-season cottage on awesome 2-lake chain
- Clean deep shoreline, big lake view, western sunset
- Year-round Municipal road access, 20 mins from Haliburton Village

Ashley McKeigue
705- 854-1833

Oblong Lake $649,000

- 0.9-acre parcel with north-western exposure
- Over 700 feet of clean, sand & rock frontage
- Driveway installed & building site partially cleared
- Part of a 2-lake chain with premium Haliburton Lake

Donna McCallum*
455-2054

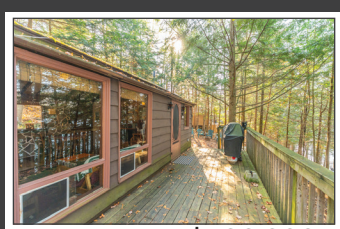
Saskatchewan Lake

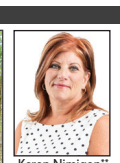
- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 800 Sq Ft
- 344ft of Flat, Level Shoreline
- Bunkie for Overflow Guests
- The Perfect Traditional Cottage Getaway!

Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Building Lot $238,000

- 290ft of Frtg, Close Proximity to Eagle Lk
- Nicely Treed 2.6 Acre Parcel
- Off Grid Property, Driveway Roughed In
- Abutting Properties For Sale!





Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Wenona Lake $400,000

- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 470+ Sq Ft
- Gorgeous west facing Sunsets & Sunshine!
- Lakeside Dock w/Sitting Area, Large Deck
- Live the Dream!

Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

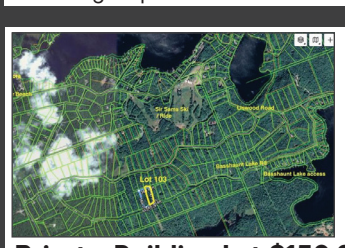
Haliburton Condo $695,000

- Luxurious waterfront condo in Haliburton
- 1117 sq ft, 2 bath, 2 bedrooms plus den/office
- Many upgrades plus incredible water views from every room!

Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Loop Road

- $189,000
- Very Private
- 4+ Acreage in Harcourt
- Several Choices of Building Sites



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Private, Building Lot $159,000

- 2 Acre Forested Lot
- Beautiful Mixture of Pine & Maple Trees
- Public Access to Basshaunt Lake Close By
- Few Mins From All Amenities of Eagle Lake

Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

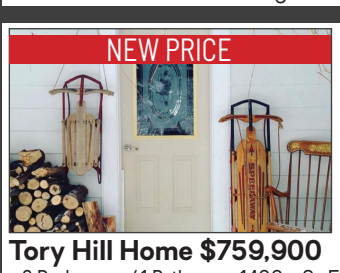
Beautiful Country Home $699,000

- 3 Beds / 2 Bath, 1800 Sq Ft
- 1.39 Acres, Huge Pond w/Sand Beach Area
- Detached 17x30 Garage/Workshop
- Access to Clement Lake Boat Launch

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Bethel Road $599,900

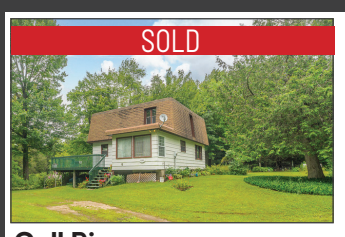
- Incredible 194-acre parcel 5 mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway - private, cleared building site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Tory Hill Home $759,900

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom, 1400+ Sq Ft
- Sits on 2.96 Acres, Cutest Little Hobby Farm!
- Beautiful Gardens & Very Well Maintained Barn



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Gull River

- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 2500+ SqFt
- 1.77 Acres of Privacy, 20x20 workshop
- 3-Season (10x14) Sunroom
- 580ft of Pristine Riverfront on Gull River

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

History in Pictures
New museum book is a beautiful and telling testament of first settlers' courage

Help Fire Victims
Friends of the Mathews family are helping them cope with loss of house

Big League for Girls?
The HHSS girls hockey team plays exhibition games only. Should it join a league?

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
www.haliburtonecho.ca

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Vol. 125 No. 46 $1.25 incl. GST

Devolin wants to be Speaker of the House

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Local MP Barry Devolin is hoping that his "calm approach, contemplative nature and restrained partisanship" will earn him the trust of MPs around the country.

The 46-year-old Conservative is hoping to be chosen as the next Speaker of the House of Commons.

Not only is the Speaker the moderator of debates in Question Period but he or she is also "an important ambassador for Canada," Devolin says in a press release issued Monday morning. "Having lived for a year in Europe, a year and a half in Asia, and three years in the United States, I appreciate the importance of cultural sensitivity and protocol, and recognize the value of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting Canada's interests abroad."

Devolin has a B.A. and M.A. in political science. He was first elected to the House of Commons as the MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in 2004 and re-elected in 2006 and 2008.

See **Devolin** *page 17*

MATT JAMES/Echo

Imagine War

Don Curry of the Haliburton Legion's colour party, stands at attention as Grade 6 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School students Kristen McKee, left, and Noelle Russell recite their original poem "Imagine War" during the school's Remembrance Day assembly on November 10. See page 20.

Potential buyers check out updated condo plans

CHAD INGRAM
Staff Reporter

The developers of the Watercolours condominium development, slated for construction on the shores of Haliburton's Head Lake, unveiled some new drawings of the project and answered questions from some of the building's potential residents at a public meeting last week.

The event, which was attended by more than 50 people, was held at Delta Pinestone Resort in Haliburton on November 4.

"There are a lot of buyers in here, I understand," said Ad Mahlo, president of the Toronto-based development company Symbol Communities Inc., as he addressed the crowd.

Many of the attendees were people who have put down $500 deposits to reserve units in the planned four-storey, 150-unit complex.

"We're not going to go into very technical or specific details," Mahlo said, adding that many specifics of the project still have to be ironed out.

Rather, Mahlo said the gathering was an informal opportunity for buyers and potential buyers to check out updated drawings and floor plans and ask questions of the development team.

See **Watercolours** *page 12*

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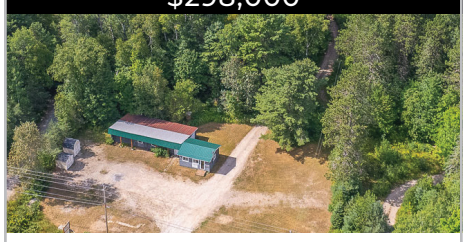
$729,000

2 X BED | .496 ACRES | 670 SQ.FT
3 X BATH | 95 FT. FRONTAGE | MLS# 40339434

KC DAM ROAD
$650,000

3 X BED | 6.4 ACRES | 2321 SQ.FT
3 X BATH | INGROUND POOL | MLS# 40345292

BUILDING AND LAND
$298,000



COMMERICAL | 5.129 ACRES
2,000 SQ.FT WORKSHOP | MLS# 40310596

BURNT RIVER
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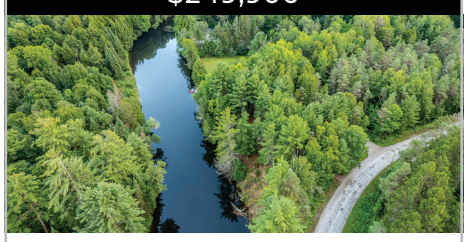

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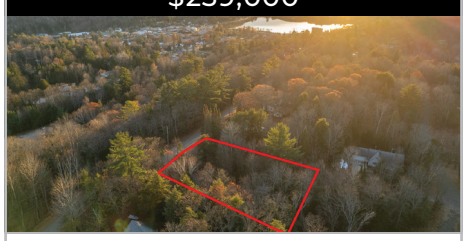
SUNNYSIDE STREET
$239,000



GREAT LOCATION | 0.408 ACRES
MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. | MLS# 40343482

HARBURN RD.
$229,900

GREAT LOCATION | 16+ ACRES
MUNICIPAL YEAR-ROUND RD. | MLS# 40296528

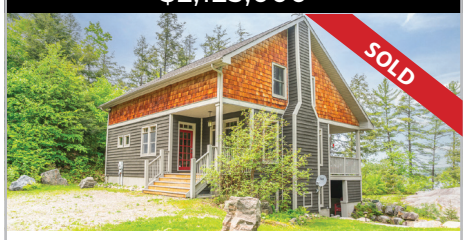
TOWER ROAD
$95,000

PRIVATE | 2.19 ACRES
OFF-GRID | MLS# 40343517

DRAG RIVER

GREAT LOCATION | 2.87 ACRES
245 FT. FRONTAGE

KENNISIS LAKE
$2,125,000



4 X BED | 6.27 ACRES | 1900 SQ.FT
3 X BATH | 642.78 FT. FRONTAGE | MLS# 40275471

WENONA LAKE
$1,399,000

3 X BED | .693 ACRES | 2273 SQ.FT
3 X BATH | 125 FT. FRONTAGE | MLS# 40332600

IRONDALE RIVER
$249,900

3 X BED | 1.12+ ACRES | 1,177 SQ.FT
2 X BATH | 165 FT. FRONTAGE | MLS# 40335524

★★★★★

We worked with Karen Wood to purchase a cottage. She provided fantastic, strategic advice, took lots of time to answer all our many questions and pushed really hard/went above-and-beyond to get our deal done. We were very impressed wither her commitment to client service and would absolutely work with Karen again and recommend her to others.

Travis A.

Gingerbread House Giveaway

- Haliburton Santa Clause Parade
- Friday, November 25 th
- Giveaway will begin after the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00pm in front of the Baumgartner Realty Office

*while supplies last

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner

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